

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 005859
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPM:BCLARK

APPROVED BY:S/S:DANDERSON

EUR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR

-----103154 100549Z /21

O 100149Z JAN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

SECDEF IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE

USLOSACLANT IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS - MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLUSNATO 00144 SENT SECSTATE JAN 6, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU
QUOTE

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EXDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR S/S TARNOFF ONLY

NSC FOR HUNTER ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: NATO, OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY),NAC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT IN NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL
AS RELEASED TO PRESS

1. THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT
IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL ON JANUARY 6, 1978 AS
RELEASED TO THE PRESS (PER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE

PRESIDENTIAL PARTY, LATERAL DISTRIBUTION OF THIS AND FOLLOWING REPORTS REGARDING NAC MEETING OF JANUARY 6 WILL BE DETERMINED BY WASHINGTON.)

2.

BEGIN TEXT: MR. SECRETARY GENERAL, GENERAL HAIG, AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

-

I AM HAPPY TO MEET AGAIN WITH THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL, AFTER OUR SUCCESSFUL DISCUSSIONS IN LONDON LAST MAY.

-

I COME TO SEE YOU AT THE END OF A JOURNEY WHICH HAS TAKEN ME TO SEVEN NATIONS, AND WHICH, FROM BEGINNING TO END, HAS REMINDED ME OF THE CAUSES FOR WHICH OUR ALLIANCE WAS FORMED.

-

AT EVERY POINT ON THIS JOURNEY, IN EAST AND WEST, IN NATIONS TRYING TO COPE WITH THEIR POVERTY AND THOSE ADJUSTING TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF MATERIAL WEALTH, I HAVE EMPHASIZED THE VITALITY OF DEMOCRATIC RULE, INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS, HUMAN RIGHTS.

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WE IN THIS HALL UNDERSTAND THOSE VALUES WELL. WITHOUT THEM, THE WEST STANDS FOR NOTHING AT ALL.

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AND WE ALSO KNOW, TOO OFTEN FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE COST THE DEFENSE OF THESE LIBERTIES CAN DEMAND.

-

YESTERDAY I WALKED WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING ALONG THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY--AS I MIGHT ALSO HAVE WALKED IN ANZIO, IN VERDUN, OR HERE IN BELGIUM IN FLANDERS FIELD.

-

IF THOSE NAMES FILL US SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH MOURNING AND WITH PRIDE, IT IS BECAUSE THEY REMIND US THE PRICE THAT HAS BEEN PAID FOR OUR FREEDOM BEFORE, THE PRICE WE HOPE NEVER TO HAVE TO PAY AGAIN.

-

NO ONE WHO RECALLS THOSE SACRIFICES CAN WISH THEM EVER TO BE REPEATED. THE ANCIENT SOIL OF EUROPE BEARS CONSTANT VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE CARNAGE THAT WAR INEVITABLY BRINGS.

-

IN WARSAW, I SAW BRAVE PEOPLE WHO HAVE REBUILT MUCH OF THE GRACEFUL CITY THAT WAR TOOK FROM THEM; BUT WHAT IS NEW ONLY EMPHASIZES HOW MUCH OF THE OLD WAS LOST.

-

HERE IN BELGIUM, TOO OFTEN THE BATTLEFIELD OF EUROPE,

EVERY FAMILY KNOWS OF FRIENDS, HOMES, DREAMS THAT HAVE BEEN CRUSHED BY WAR.

THAT IS THE CHALLENGE FOR OUR ALLIANCE: TO DEFEND OUR VALUES FEARLESSLY, WHILE TIRELESSLY WORKING TO PREVENT WAR.

-

WE KNOW THAT THE PATH TO LASTING PEACE DEPENDS ON HUMAN UNDERSTANDINGS, NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS, ACTS OF GOOD WILL; THE BRAVE INITIATIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST SHINE A RAY OF HOPE ONTO ALL INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS.

-

BUT WE ARE UNITED IN BELIEVING THAT OUR DEFENSE MUST ALWAYS BE STRONG ENOUGH TO DETER ANY THOUGHTS OF AGGRESSION--THAT WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR COMBAT WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALWAYS HOPE TO AVOID.

-

WHEN I MET WITH THE LEADERS OF THE ALLIANCE IN LONDON THIS PAST MAY, I WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE ALLIES' SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE, AND BY OUR COMMON DETERMINATION TO PREPARE NATO FOR THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEXT DECADE.

-

AT THAT MEETING, WE AGREED TO EMBARK ON FOUR MAJOR EFFORTS:

-- SHORT-TERM MEASURES TO MEET IMMEDIATE MILITARY PROBLEMS;

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-- A LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM, SURVEYING NATO'S REQUIREMENTS IN TEN SPECIFIC AREAS;

-- AN EAST-WEST STUDY, TO GAIN BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF TRENDS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION, AN OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF WARSAW PACT POWER, AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE NATO ALLIANCE; AND

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-- INTENSIFIED EFFORT TO IMPROVE COOPERATION IN DEFENSE PROCUREMENT.

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WE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN MAJOR STEPS IN ALL FOUR AREAS. I WAS PLEASED BY REPORTS OF THE RECENT MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE ON DEFENSE TRADE THAT THE INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP HAS PROPOSED.

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TOGETHER WE ARE SETTING THE NATO ALLIANCE ON A COURSE THAT WILL REAFFIRM OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO PEACE, TO A STRONG AND VITAL ALLIANCE, AND TO MEETING ANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHALLENGE TO OUR STRENGTH AND COHESION IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

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THE LEADERS OF THE ALLIANCE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS, IN A SUMMIT-LEVEL NATO CONFERENCE THIS SPRING.

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I AM HAPPY TO RENEW MY INVITATION TO THE ALLIANCE TO HOLD THAT MEETING IN WASHINGTON, ON MAY 30 AND 31.

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THE DEFENSE BUDGET THAT I WILL BE SUBMITTING TO THE CONGRESS LATER THIS MONTH WILL PROVIDE FOR REAL INCREASES IN U.S. DEFENSE SPENDING, MORE THAN COMPENSATING FOR THE EFFECTS OF INFLATION.

-

EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, A MAJOR PART OF THIS EFFORT WILL RESPOND DIRECTLY TO OUR OBJECTIVES IN THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM, AND WILL IMPROVE THE U.S. MILITARY COMMITMENT TO THE ALLIANCE.

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THE NUMBER OF U.S. SOLDIERS IN EUROPE WILL INCREASE BY MORE THAN 8,000 IN THE NEXT YEAR AND A HALF, AND WE WILL SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVE OUR REINFORCEMENT CAPABILITY.

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WE HAVE MADE THESE EFFORTS IN THE NAME OF THE ALLIANCE, WE HOPE THAT WITH A FAR-REACHING, REALISTIC, LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM, THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE WILL MATCH OR EXCEED THE IMPROVEMENTS WHICH WE OURSELVES ARE NOW UNDERTAKING.

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THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN UNDIMINISHED ITS FIRM COMMITMENT TO NATO, AND WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE FORCES NEEDED TO BACK UP THAT COMMITMENT.

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WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE DOCTRINE, STRATEGY, AND POLICIES OF THE ALLIANCE, INCLUDING FORWARD DE-

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FENSE AND FLEXIBLE RESPONSE.

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WE WILL WORK WITH YOU TO MAINTAIN DETERRENCE ACROSS THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF STRATEGIC, THEATER NUCLEAR, AND CONVENTIONAL FORCES, SO THAT THE WARSAW PACT STATES WILL KNOW THAT ALL OF US ARE UNITED IN COMMITMENT TO DEFENSE OF ALL THE TERRITORIES OF NATO MEMBERS.

-
THERE WILL BE NO FLAGGING OF AMERICAN WILL OR ABILITY
TO MEET ALL OF OUR NATO COMMITMENTS, WHICH HAVE THE
FIRM SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

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THERE ARE OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES FACING THE ALLIANCE.

-
WE HAVE SET AN EXCELLENT RECORD OF CONSULTING WITH ONE
ANOTHER, ON A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES. THAT CAN AND SHOULD
CONTINUE, AND THE UNITED STATES WILL INCREASINGLY DRAW
THE NATO ALLIES INTO ITS COUNSELS.

-
AS SALT II PROCEEDS TOWARDS AN AGREEMENT WHICH WE HOPE
WILL COME SOON, WE WILL INTENSIFY OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH
ALL OF YOU, RECOGNIZING THAT THE COUNCIL IS THE FOCUS OF
OUR DELIBERATIONS.

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AS WE MOVE BEYOND SALT II, WE WILL UNDERTAKE BROAD DIS-
CUSSIONS HERE ON ALL ALLIED SECURITY ISSUES.

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WE MUST APPROACH THESE ISSUES TOGETHER, AS AN ALLIANCE,
AND JUDGE EACH QUESTION IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR OVERALL
SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NEXT DECADE.

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WE MUST ASSURE THAT OUR FORCE PLANNING AND ARMS CONTROL
STRATEGIES SERVE THE SAME PURPOSE.
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IN SEEKING TO REDUCE TENSIONS AND TO BUILD A MORE STABLE
PEACE, THE ALLIANCE SHOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY
TO THE MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTION TALKS IN
VIENNA.

-
WE BELIEVE OUR NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS WOULD LEAD TO A MORE
STABLE MILITARY SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE, WITH LOWER
FORCE LEVELS ON BOTH SIDES.

-
WE IN THE ALLIANCE ARE PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE IN SEEKING
PROGRESS TOWARD A BALANCED OUTCOME THAT PROTECTS OUR
INTERESTS.

-
BUT SERIOUS INTEREST IN MOVING THE TALKS FORWARD CANNOT
BE ONE-SIDED. WE LOOK FOR AN EQUAL COMMITMENT AND CONTRI-
BUTION TOWARD PROGRESS IN THE TALKS FROM THE WARSAW PACT
STATES.

-
LASTLY, AS ALLIES, WE MUST CONTINUE TO PROMOTE OUR
STRENGTH IN OTHER AREAS -- ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, SOCIAL,
MORAL.

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IT IS PRECISELY WHEN THE CHALLENGE TO DEMOCRACY IS
GREATEST THAT OUR LEADERS MUST MOST FIRMLY RESIST NON-
DEMOCRATIC SOLUTIONS.

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I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT THE NATIONS OF THE ALLIANCE,
AND NATO ITSELF, WILL BE MORE THAN EQUAL TO THESE TASKS.

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I RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES CONFIDENT OF THE PROSPECTS
FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD WHICH RESPECTS HUMAN RIGHTS; I KNOW
THAT THE SECURITY OF OUR ALLIANCE IS THE ROCK ON WHICH
THAT HOPE IS BUILT. END TEXT. GILTMAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE005859
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPM:BCCLARK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780014-0224
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780180/aaaacpph.tel
Line Count: 289
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 70a8eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3800477
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT IN NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL AS RELEASED TO PRESS
TAGS: OVIP, US, NATO, NAC, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: NATO POSTS MOSCOW MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/70a8eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014